

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A diaphragm valve comprising:
 - a body having an upper opening;
 - a first flow passage and a second flow passage formed in the body to open into the upper opening;
 - a diaphragm valve element covering the upper opening to form an airtight space through which the first and second flow passages are allowed to communicate with each other;
 - a valve seat formed in the body;
 - an urging member urging the diaphragm valve element against the valve seat into a valve-closed state; and
 - an actuator adapted to bring the diaphragm valve element out of contact with the valve seat into a valve-opened state;
- wherein the diaphragm valve element ~~comprising:~~ comprises:
 - a main body which is to be brought into/out of contact with the valve seat;
 - a diaphragm part formed extending in a curve, radially from the main body, the diaphragm part forming substantially a 270° arc in the valve-opened state, and including a root connected to the main body and positioned inside the diameter of the valve seat; and
 - a fixed part formed at an outer peripheral edge of the diaphragm part and held at a position higher than the root during the valve-closed state.

2. (Currently Amended) The diaphragm valve ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein the diaphragm valve element in which the diaphragm part having a thin wall and the fixed part having a thick wall are formed so that respective upper surfaces are flush with each other, and the fixed part is held ~~between an~~ between a lower fixing face and an upper fixing face which extends to the diaphragm part.

3. (Currently Amended) The diaphragm valve ~~according to~~ of claim 2, further comprising:

~~wherein~~ a guide face having a slope contiguous from the upper fixing face above the diaphragm part so that the diaphragm part comes into contact with the guide face when the diaphragm valve element is separated from the valve seat.

4. (Currently Amended) The diaphragm valve ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein a fluid-pressure-receiving area of the ~~valve body part~~ main body is as large as or larger than a fluid-pressure-applied area of the diaphragm part.

5. (Currently Amended) The diaphragm valve ~~according to~~ of claim 2, wherein ~~the fluid pressure receiving a~~ fluid-pressure-receiving area of the ~~valve body part~~ main body is as large as or larger than a fluid-pressure-applied area of the diaphragm part.

6. (Currently Amended) The diaphragm valve ~~according to~~ of claim 3, wherein ~~the fluid pressure receiving a~~ fluid-pressure-receiving area of the ~~valve body part~~ main body is as large as or larger than a fluid-pressure-applied area of the diaphragm part.

7. (New) The diaphragm valve of claim 1 wherein the root substantially vertically extends upward from the main body.

8. (New) The diaphragm valve of claim 1 wherein an upper surface of the main body inclines downward in a direction away from the urging member.

9. (New) The diaphragm valve of claim 1 further comprising a circular groove formed around the valve seat.

10. (New) The diaphragm valve of claim 9 wherein the first flow passage is in communication with the circular groove formed around the valve seat.